

Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2007

Voting Council Members Present: Chairman Gary Kendell, Jerry Bartruff for Jeanette Bucklew, Charlotte Burt, Mary Nelson, Dean Austin, Ken Carter, Paul Stageberg, Stewart Barnes, Chris Wilson, Larry Eisenhower for Robert Mahan.

Non-voting Council Members Present: Col. Michael Jensen and Deb Scorpiniti for Stephen Patrick O'Meara.

Staff Present: Dale Woolery, Dennis Wiggins, Becky Swift, Terry Graham and Becky Bell.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Director Kendell at the Urbandale Public Library. Council members introduced themselves.

Paul Stageberg made a motion, Ken Carter seconded and the Council voted unanimously to approve the November 9, 2006 minutes.

Legislative Updates and Discussion

Director Kendall reported ODCP has four bills in the legislature this year: 1) electronic tracking of pseudoephedrine, 2) doubling the law enforcement initiative surcharge to provide funding for drug task forces, 3) adding the drug Salvia divinorum to the controlled substances list, and 4) funding to offset the loss of \$1.8 million dollars in federal funding.

Three of the four bills have made it through the funnel. The surcharge bill was met with resistance and did not make it through the first funnel. ODCP will continue to work to get the other three bills through the process. The pseudoephedrine tracking bill is not being opposed. There is some effort on the federal level to develop standards for a national system tracking and this may prove helpful for future funding. Director Kendell will be attending a meeting in Washington, DC where this topic will be discussed.

The Salvia bill passed through the House and is awaiting Senate approval. Salvia, a hallucinogenic substance commonly sold in smoke shops, is in the mint family. The bill proposes to make Salvia a schedule one controlled substance.

Due to the loss of earmark funding for SFY 2008, ODCP asked for \$1.8 million dollars in one-time state funding for multijurisdictional drug task forces to offset cuts in COPS methamphetamine funding. After the bill was drafted, ODCP learned that the federal government added an extra \$109 million dollars in to the Byrne Jag program before finalizing the '07 budget, this means that ODCP will get approximately \$500,000 – \$600,000 more Byrne/JAG funding than initially thought. This additional funding helps to offset some of the funding losses. Due to this, the Administration and Regulation

Committee reduced ODCP's initial request of \$1.8 million to \$1.4 million dollars. ODCP is hopeful that we can obtain the \$1.4 million to maintain the status quo.

Director Kendell reported that there has been a couple of bills introduced dealing with controlled substance, particularly methamphetamine, mandatory prison sentencing and driving privilege issues. ODCP has informally taken a position against them.

Paul Stageberg requested a copy of the methamphetamine bill, which would do away with any mandatory prison sentences for methamphetamine felonies.

Chris Wilson asked about the status of the keg registration bill. Director Kendell reported that ODCP had not expressed a position on this bill. This bill did make it out of funnel.

DPAC Planning Retreat Follow-up

Becky Swift did give a brief overview of the planning retreat where members determined Council priority areas.

The top three issues chosen were: 1) development of a leadership collaboration, 2) funding for the full continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and aftercare, and 3) restoration of lost federal funds.

Further discussion of the retreat outcomes was postponed until May for a variety of reasons:

- Art Schut and Diane Thomas' terms expire April 30 and they were not reappointed by the Governor. They have been replaced by John Garringer and Jane Larkin. Jane is with Youth and Shelter Services and will replace Diane as the treatment specialist and John the Director of the Area Substance Abuse Council in Cedar Rapids will serve as the treatment director. Their terms begin May 1 and they will attend the May 10 meeting.
- There were very few Council members who had attended the planning retreat at the meeting.
- Director Kendell was appointed after the planning retreat, so did not attend.

Council members were asked to review the priorities before the May meeting and determine individually the priority issue on which they want to work. Workgroups will then be organized for each priority area.

Director Kendell stated that he has an idea that could provide a significant amount of funding in the future, but he needs to get approval from others before pursuing this option. He also stated that federal funding is difficult to rely on because it changes from year to year, which makes program development and continuation difficult.

Congress has wrapped up the 2007 budget and ODCP has submitted its 2008 discretionary requests to the Iowa delegation.

Dale asked if anyone else has been impacted by the loss of the earmarks. Paul reported that CJJP will lose funding for juvenile court services.

Dean Austin reported that IDPH is trying to get more funding for the jail treatment program.

Other Business

ODCP has certificates for Art Schut and Diane Thomas thanking them for their years of service on the council. Both were unable to attend the meeting so the certificates will be mailed to them.

Mary Nelson reported that the Department of Human Services is beginning a pilot project in three communities called "Parents as Partners," for parents whose children are in foster care. The project employs parents whose children were formerly in foster care to serve as mentors and provide support to parents with children currently in foster care. The mentors are also recovering addicts and the program tries to match the parents as closely as possible based on circumstances and drug of choice. The project is being piloted in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and in northwest Iowa. This program is based on a model from Kentucky.

Director Kendell asked Council members about program ideas that would require funding. Chris Wilson reported on a program where communities are assigned prevention coaches who complete a thorough review of its substance abuse assessment data and current prevention projects. The coaches provided ongoing training and guidance in developing a research-based continuum to better align the community prevention strategies with the assessment.

Family drug courts were also mentioned. The state already invests in several juvenile and adult drug courts across the state. Some jurisdictions are, or are considering developing family drug courts without funding.

Paul Stageberg reported that he has received two extensions for the Drug Court Evaluation grant, which will now expire in September 2008. The extensions allow CJJP to track clients up to three years.

Director Kendell stated that funding has always been a problem for undercover buy money and overtime money for drug investigations.

Stew Barnes reported that the biggest problem is funding for staff. He indicated that there is a lot of funding going to homeland security.

Jerry Bartruff was asked about the Department of Corrections' status of funding for therapeutic communities. He stated that DOC had changed their focus by asking the legislature for funding for a simplified assessment process, which would help identify inmate needs and required services. The Department of Corrections did visit the

Sheraton Facility, a therapeutic community in Illinois, and while there had been some discussion about replicating the model, he is not aware of any therapeutic community initiatives at this time.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 10 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. The DPAC retreat will be held on August 9, also at a location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Bell